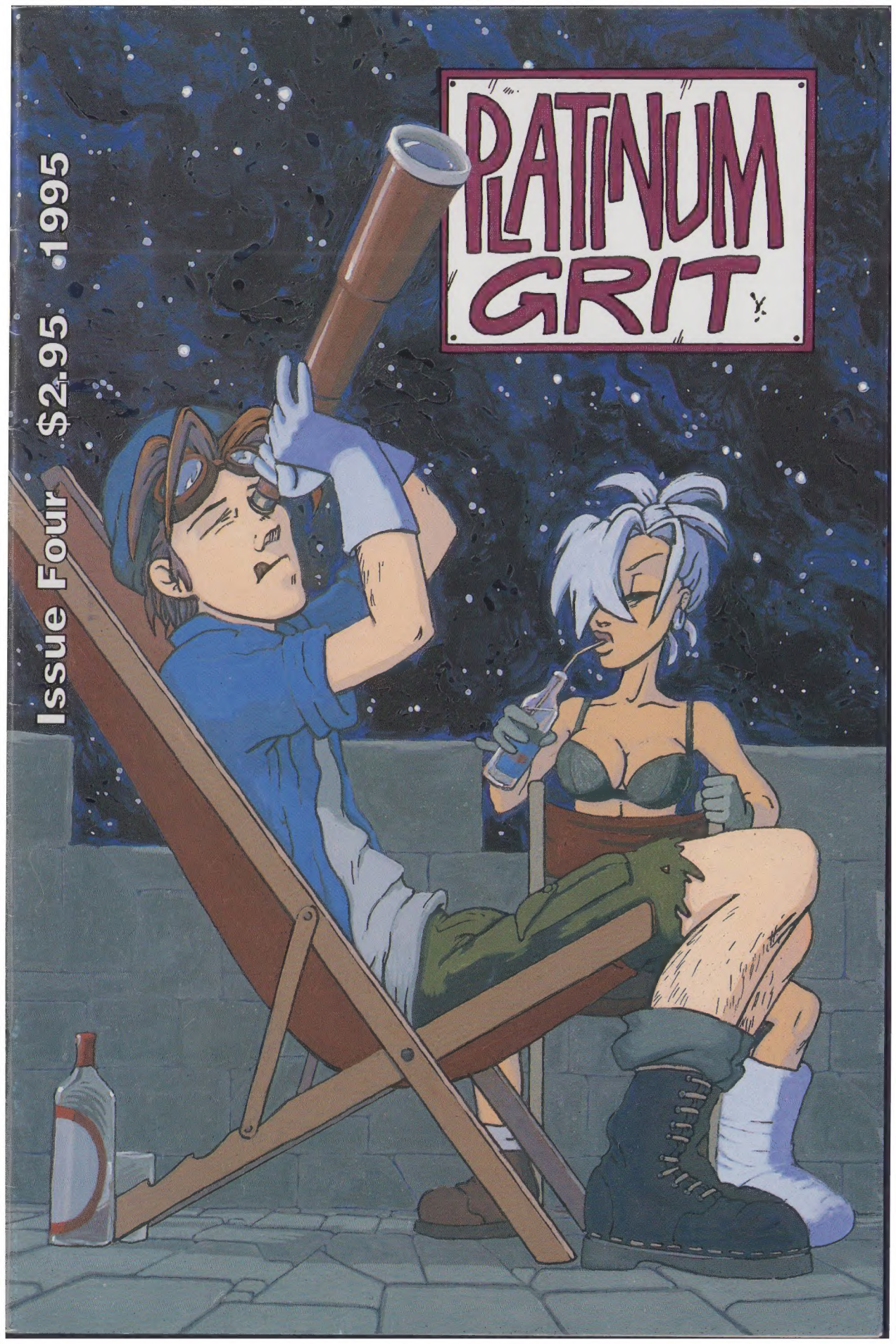

PLATINUM GRIT
Issue Four $2.95 1995

WIN VALUABLE PRIZES!

Not at our expense, though-By exploiting someone you'll never meet. This is that person's story:

A few months ago we got a very short letter, starting "Groo is so stupid". No name on the letter, and we can't find the envelope.

Anyway, it seems that Groo, a comic book published until recently by Marvel, but now by Image, has a long-running competition: If you can get a sentence starting with "Groo is so stupid" published in someone else's book, you win VALUABLE PRIZES!

Actually, I think what you get is a certificate signed by Sergio Aragones. If you don't consider that valuable, then I guess you just stand to win cardboard.

Anyway, even though you didn't send us that letter, or especially if you did, you could write to

GROO GRAMS.-PO Box 480265
Los Angeles, CA 90048,

telling them you got a Groo-sentence published, and if they believe you, you'll get VALUABLE PRIZES!

And then you can get down to the business of tossing and turning at night because you deprived some wide eyed urchin in a wheelchair of a certificate.

Guilt Self-loathing Cardboard.

Don't say we never give you anything.

Thanks

Andrea Baldwin, Monique Dawson, Sam, Dave, Dom & Simon, Andrew Dodd,Stuart Hale, Andy Foreman, Phillipa Denton, Mr J, Patrick O'Duffy, Gerard Ashworth, Michael, Tim & Anne-Maree, Fil Barlow, Pooky the Barbarian, Katrina Pay, Whoever stole our CDs, RAW cafe,Erin Murphy and Ian Eddy.

PLATINUM GRIT

Issue Four Story Three

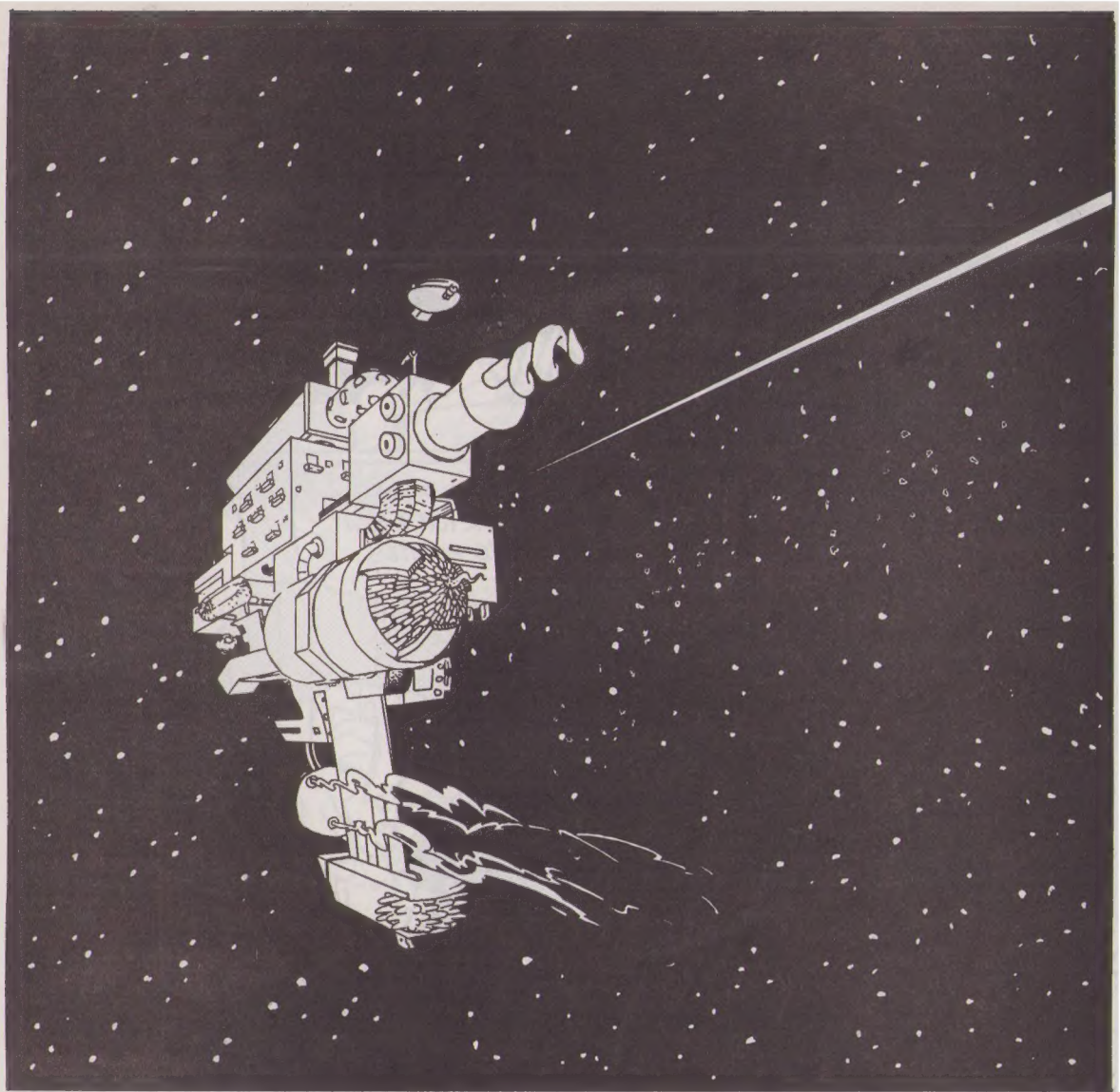
THE HOWLING VOID SINGS VAL DOONIGAN Part One

Story/Art-Trudy Cooper
Story/Script-Danny Murphy
Story/Stuff-Doug Bayne
Man with a Mobile Phone
-Roger Beames

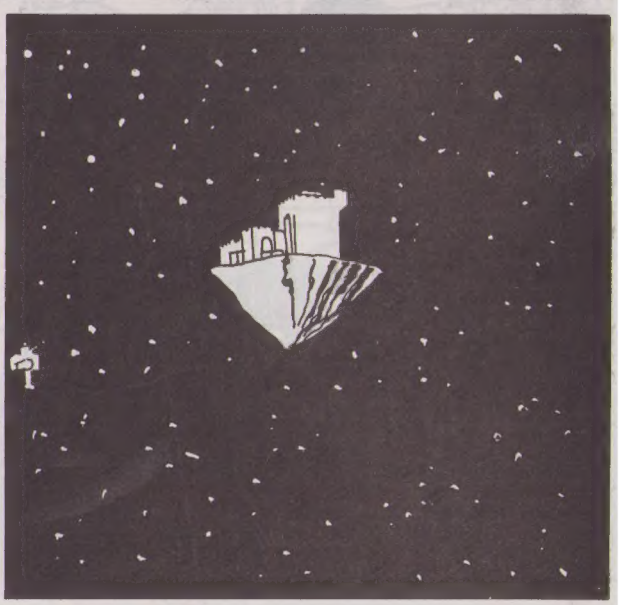
Backup Story ARTOPIA -Fil Barlow

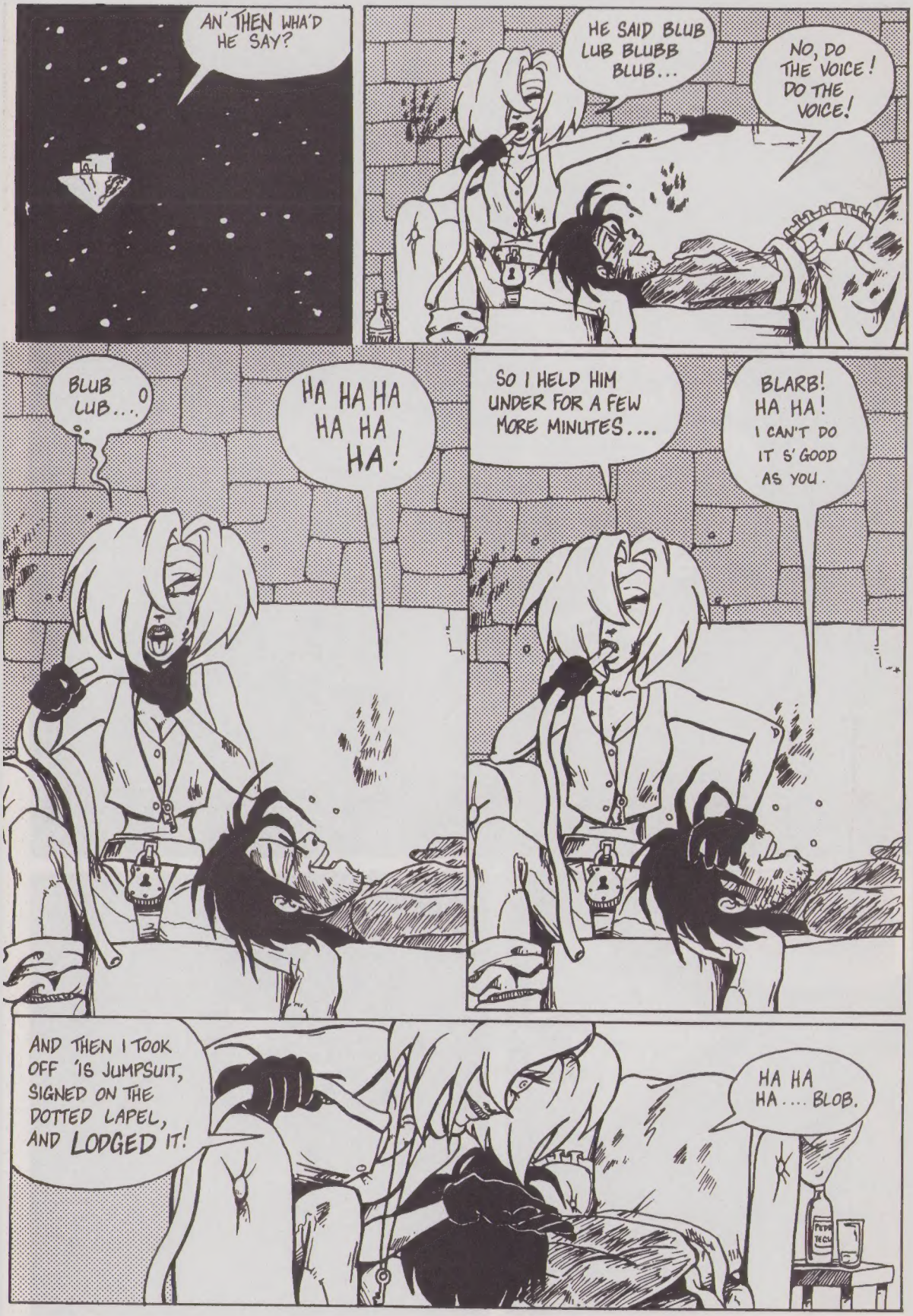
Platinum Grit No. 4. February 1995
Published Quarterly by Dead Numbat Productions, P.O. Box 116 Paddington 4064 Australia. All material copyright its creators.Any similarities to real persons, places or things is coincidental Cover price recommended retail only
First printing

Printed by Rotary Offset Press
Distributed by Gordon & Gotch

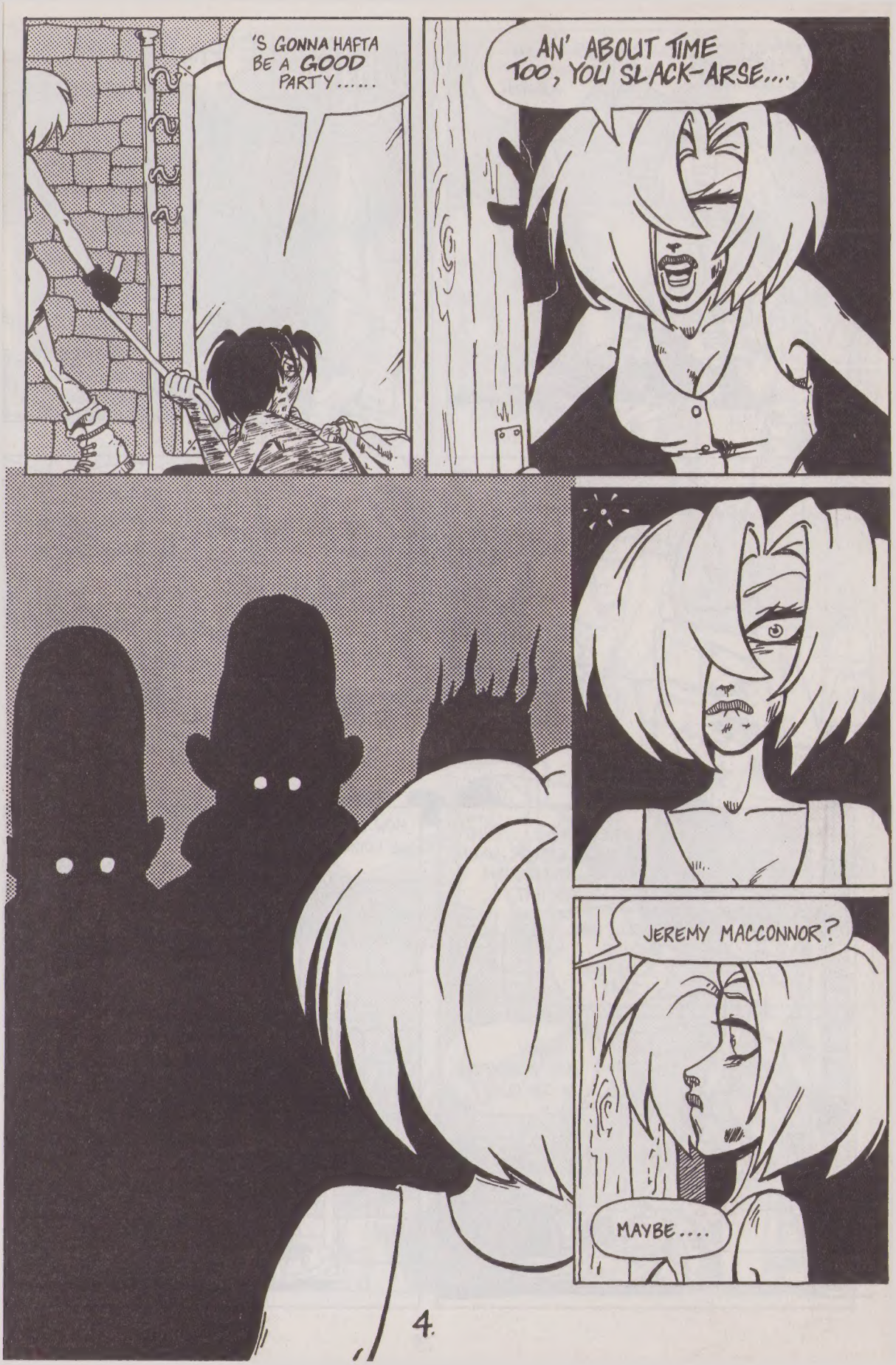


HELP!
I CAN'T BREATHE!
THERE'S NO AIR!
HEELLLLLPP!




AN' THEN WHA'D HE SAY?
HE SAID BLUB LUB BLUBB BLUB...
NO, DO THE VOICE! DO THE VOICE!
BLUB LUB....
HA HA HA HA HA HA!
SO I HELD HIM UNDER FOR A FEW MORE MINUTES....
BLARB! HA HA! I CAN'T DO IT S' GOOD AS YOU.
AND THEN I TOOK OFF 'IS JUMPSUIT, SIGNED ON THE DOTTED LAPEL, AND LODGED IT!
HA HA HA.... BLOB.

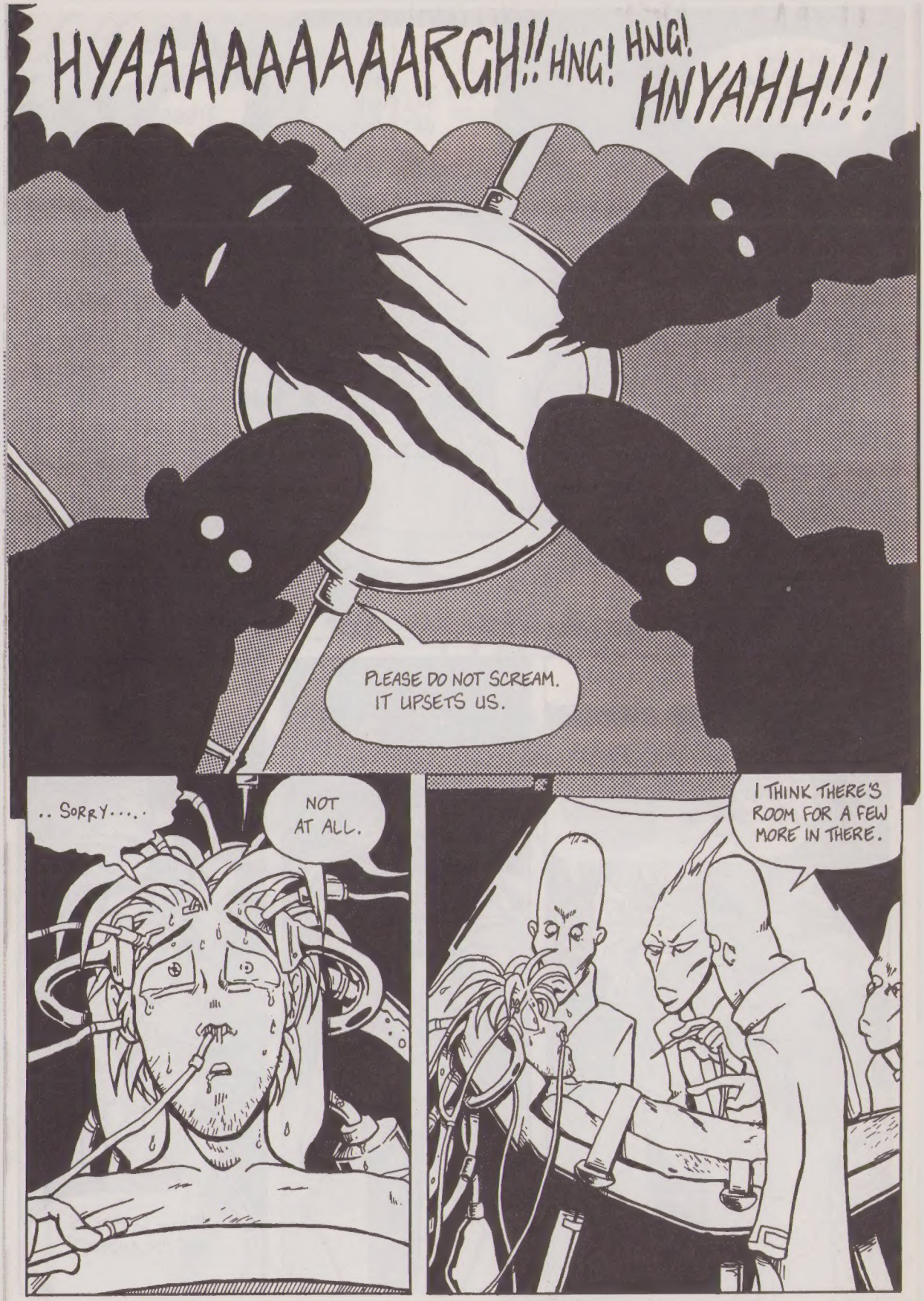
AN THAS HOW I GOT MY FORTH TASS FILE NUMMER.
DO TH' VOICE AGAIN...
DING DONG!
FIIIINALLY!
FIIIIINALLY!
WHA'? OW!
WHEEEEE .....THIS' SMUCH EASIER WHEN YOU'RE COVERED IN PIG FAT.
WELL, WE SHOULD R'MEMBER THAT.
...WHY WUZ'E WEARING A JUM'SUIT?
HOW DO WE LOOK?


'S GONNA HAFTA BE A GOOD PARTY.....
AN' ABOUT TIME TOO, YOU SLACK-ARSE....
JEREMY MACCONNOR?
MAYBE....

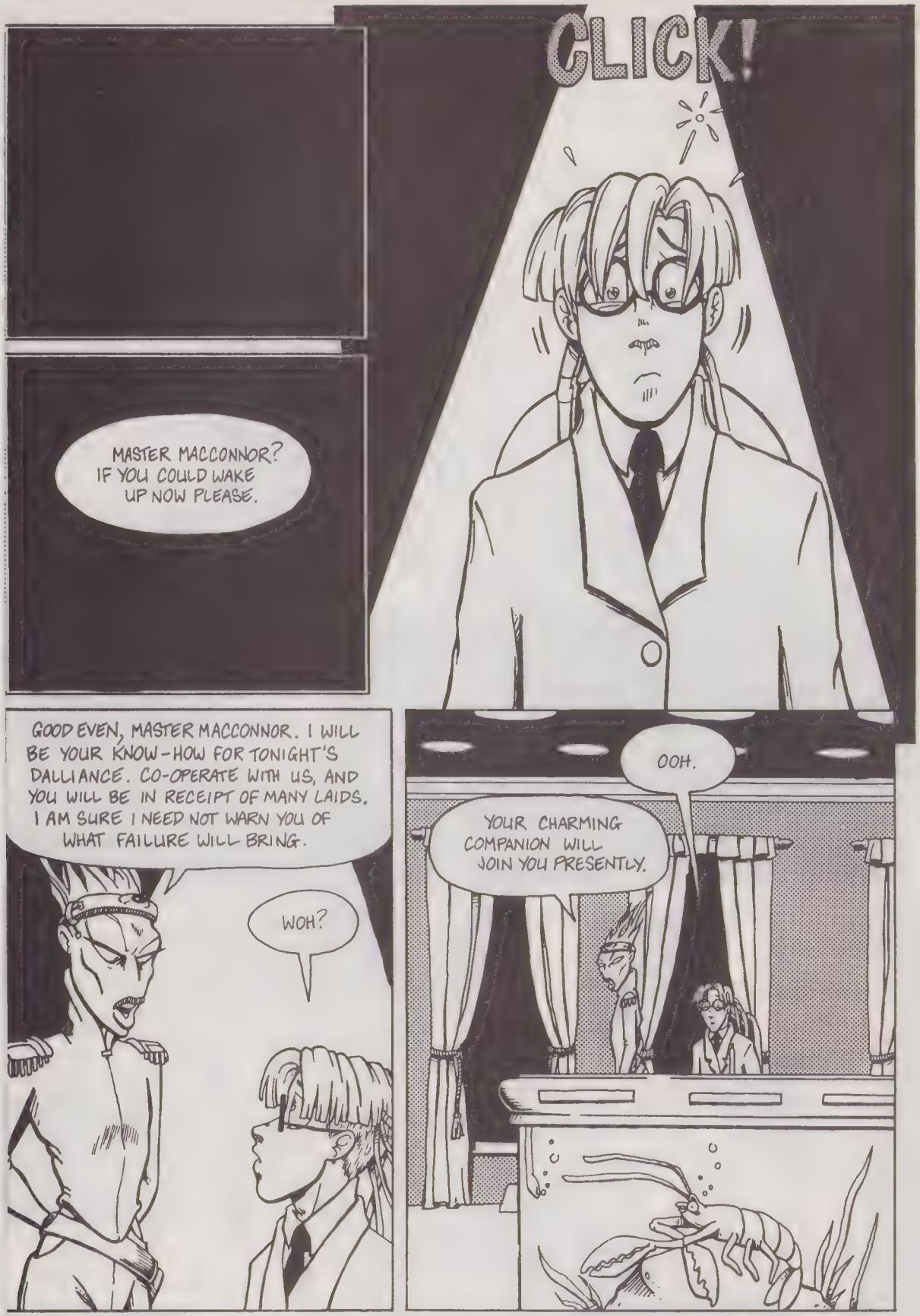
WE HAVE COME FOR YOU.
IZZAT MARCO?
NO.
WHUP-!
...WELL, FUCK ME FLAT.
HOY!
STILL NO ANSWER! PERHAPS WE SHOULD BE USING A HEMISPHERICAL ANTENNA.... WHAT DO YOU THINK, JEREMY? HMMM?

UNCLE ANGUS?
AYE LAD?
....DID YOU EVER WANT TO GET MARRIED?
OH AYE - FOR A WHILE I THOUGHT OF NOTHING ELSE.
REALLY?
I MADE A FOOL OF MYSELF A DOZEN TIMES OR MORE - BUT I NEVER ONCE MET THE LASS WHO COULD REALLY SHARE MY LIFE'S WORK WITH ME. WHY DO YOU ASK?
I WAS JUST THINKING.....
IT'D BE NICE TO HAVE A SANE AUNTIE? IS THAT IT?
EEE! ...EEE.

HAS LOTTE BEEN PESTERING YOU ABOUT CHEST HAIR AGAIN?
NO....
THEN WHAT IS IT?
..... DON'T YOU EVER GET LONELY ?
AH. I SEE.
SCIENCE... IS A FAITHFUL MISTRESS, JEREMY.
BUT NOT AN ESPECIALLY WARM ONE. I KNOW. SOMETIMES EVEN THE UNIFIED FIELD THEORY DOESN'T LOOK AS GOOD AS A HOT-BLOODED LASSIE IN A TIGHT BODICE.
UM..
BUT IT PASSES.
NOW - WHERE IS THE COLANDER?

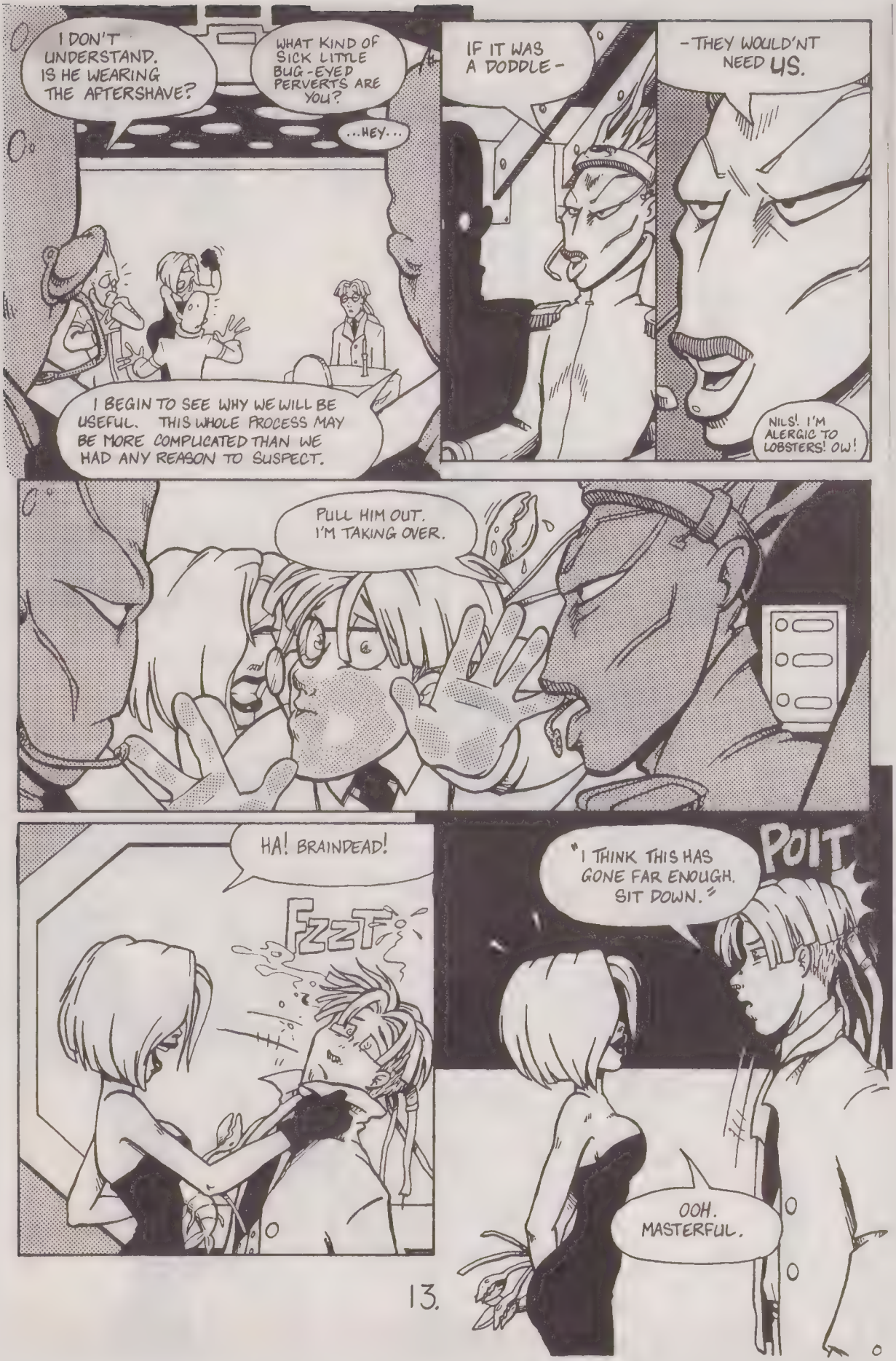

HYAAAAAAAAARGH!! HNG! HNG! HNYAHH!!!
PLEASE DO NOT SCREAM. IT UPSETS US.
.. SORRY....
NOT AT ALL.
I THINK THERE'S ROOM FOR A FEW MORE IN THERE.

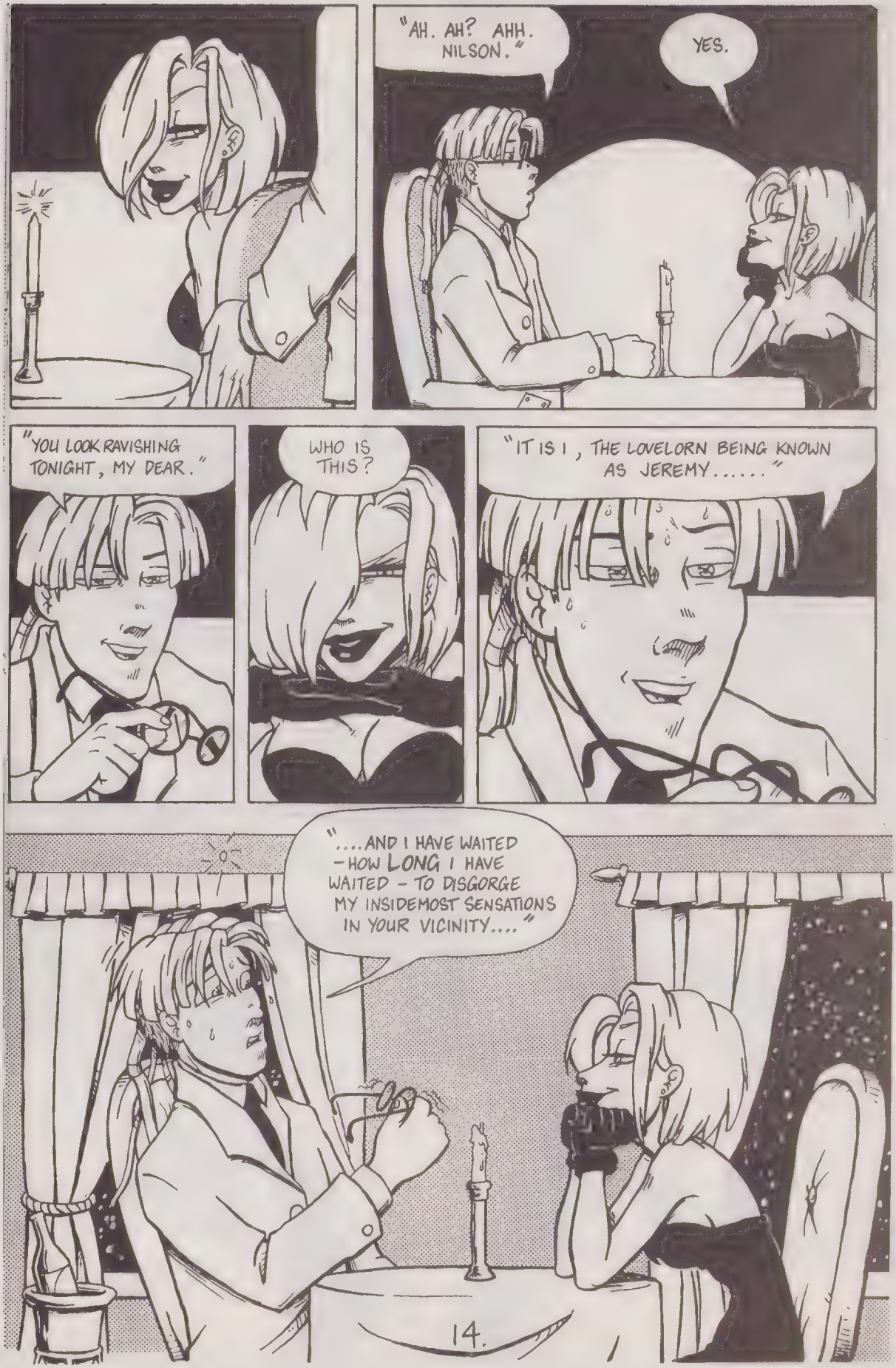
HYAAAAAARRRGH!! HNG! HNG! HNYAAAHH!!
ARE YOU GOING TO EAT THAT?
TELL US! TELL US OF YOUR SUN'S PHYSICAL SPECTRUM!
WELL - THE INDIGO'S NICE.


CLICK!
MASTER MACCONNOR? IF YOU COULD WAKE UP NOW PLEASE.
GOOD EVEN, MASTER MACCONNOR. I WILL BE YOUR KNOW-HOW FOR TONIGHT'S DALLIANCE. CO-OPERATE WITH US, AND YOU WILL BE IN RECEIPT OF MANY LAIDS. I AM SURE I NEED NOT WARN YOU OF WHAT FAILURE WILL BRING.
WOH?
OOH.
YOUR CHARMING COMPANION WILL JOIN YOU PRESENTLY.

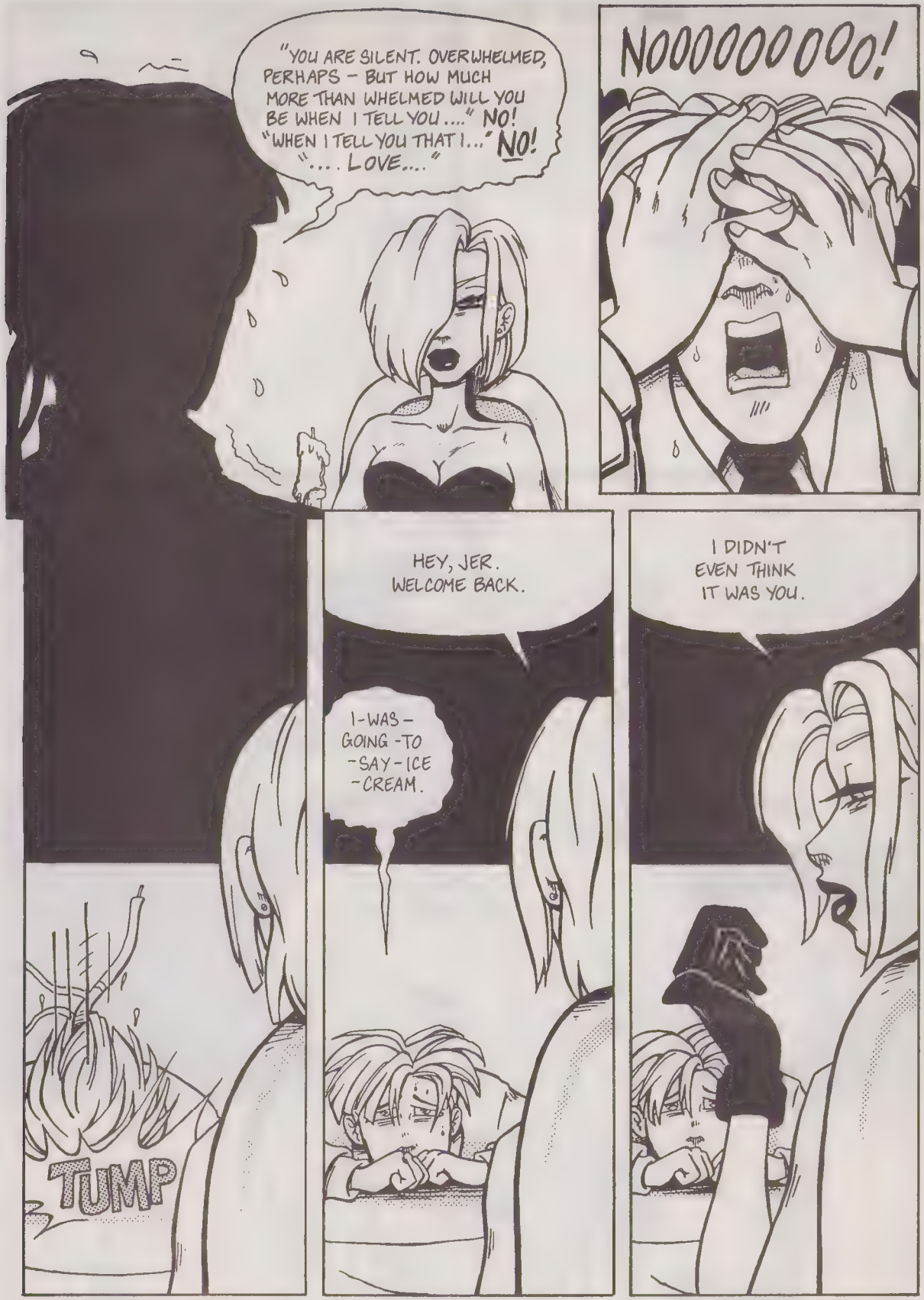
NILS?
IN THE MEANTIME, HERE IS SOME LIGHT MUSIC.
AND PERHAPS A LITTLE OFF....
NOT THE FRINGE.
PERHAPS NOT.
SNAP!
AND IF I MAY RECOMMEND THE OYSTERS....
UH - NOT FOR ME, THANKS.
SNAP!
Oysters! Yes! Lots!
VERY GOOD...
AH! I SEE MADAME HAS ARRIVED.

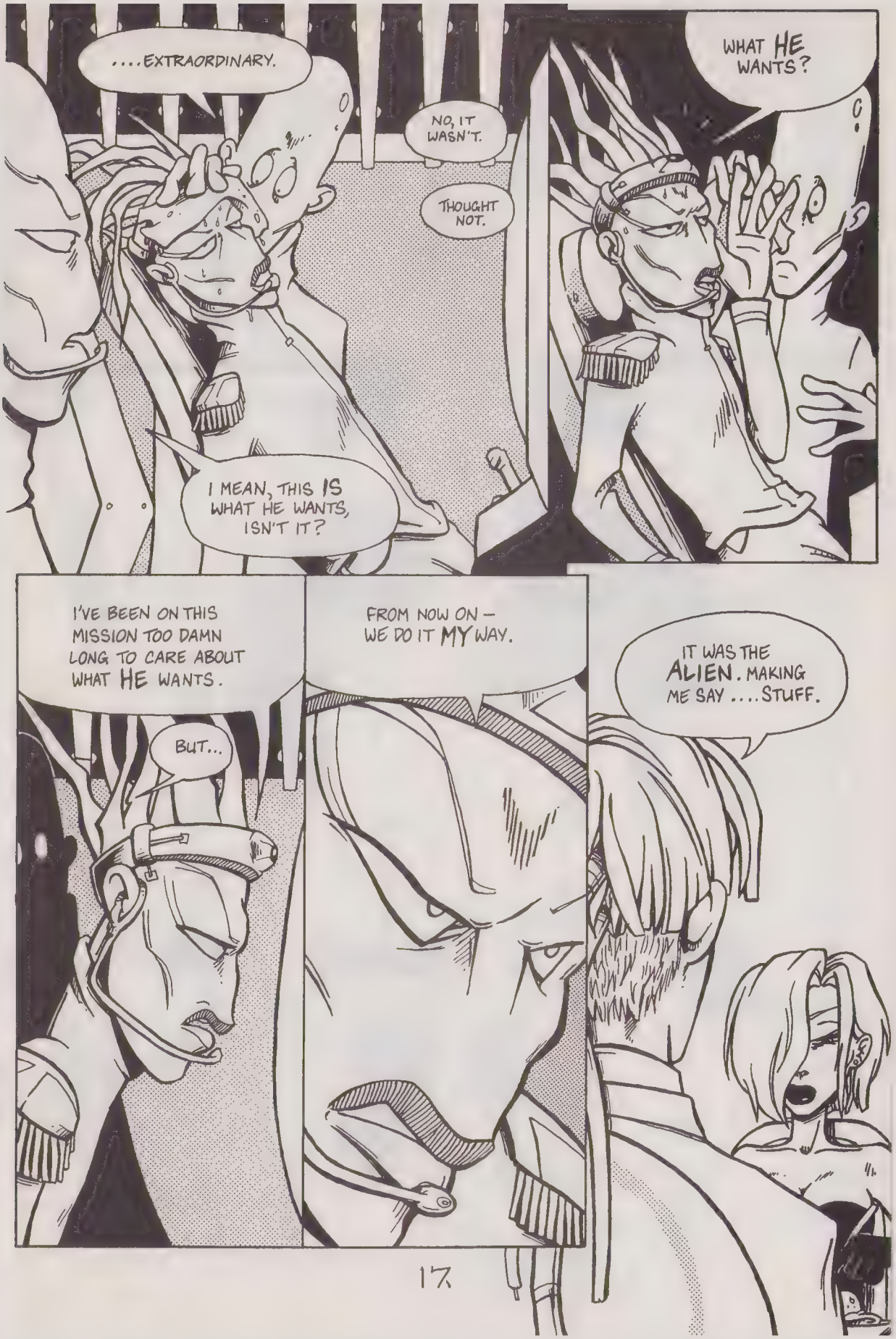
WHO?
HELLO.
NILS?
JEREMY?
THIS IS MY MYSTERY DATE??
YOU SET ME UP.... WITH HIM??
IT WASN'T MY IDEA! IT WASN'T MY IDEA!


I DON'T UNDERSTAND. IS HE WEARING THE AFTERSHAVE?
WHAT KIND OF SICK LITTLE BUG-EYED PERVERTS ARE YOU?
...HEY...
I BEGIN TO SEE WHY WE WILL BE USEFUL. THIS WHOLE PROCESS MAY BE MORE COMPLICATED THAN WE HAD ANY REASON TO SUSPECT.
IF IT WAS A DODDLE-
-THEY WOULD'NT NEED US.
NILS! I'M ALERGIC TO LOBSTERS! OW!
PULL HIM OUT. I'M TAKING OVER.
HA! BRAINDEAD!
FZZT
"I THINK THIS HAS GONE FAR ENOUGH. SIT DOWN."
POIT
OOH. MASTERFUL.

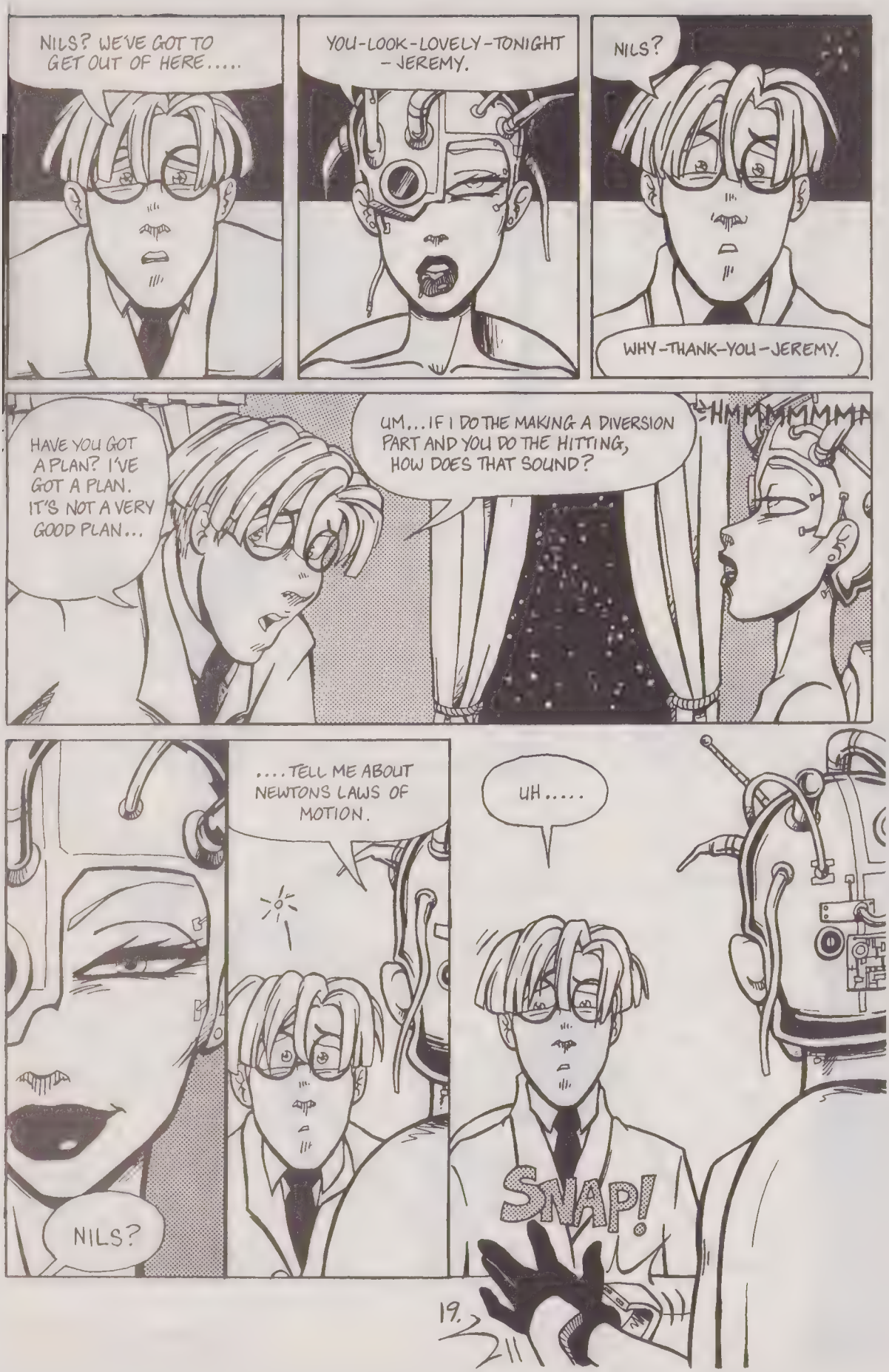

"AH. AH? AHH. NILSON."
YES.
"YOU LOOK RAVISHING TONIGHT, MY DEAR."
WHO IS THIS?
"IT IS I, THE LOVELORN BEING KNOWN AS JEREMY....."
"....AND I HAVE WAITED - HOW LONG I HAVE WAITED - TO DISGORGE MY INSIDEMOST SENSATIONS IN YOUR VICINITY...."

"NOW WE ARE ALONE, O PRECIOUS LUMP OF LANTHANUM, AND AT LAST"....
..NO..."AT LAST I AM FREE TO REVEAL"
...NO...."THAT WHICH LIES UNSEEN IN MY HEART..."
CAN YOU GUESS IT, MY SWEATY-FLANKED OKAPI? CAN YOU?
RATTLE RATTLE RATTLE
WE'RE LOSING HIM.
NOT EVEN A TWITCH AT THE LANTHANUM JOKE.
BUT THAT WAS A KILLER!
"SHUT UP, YOU TWO!"

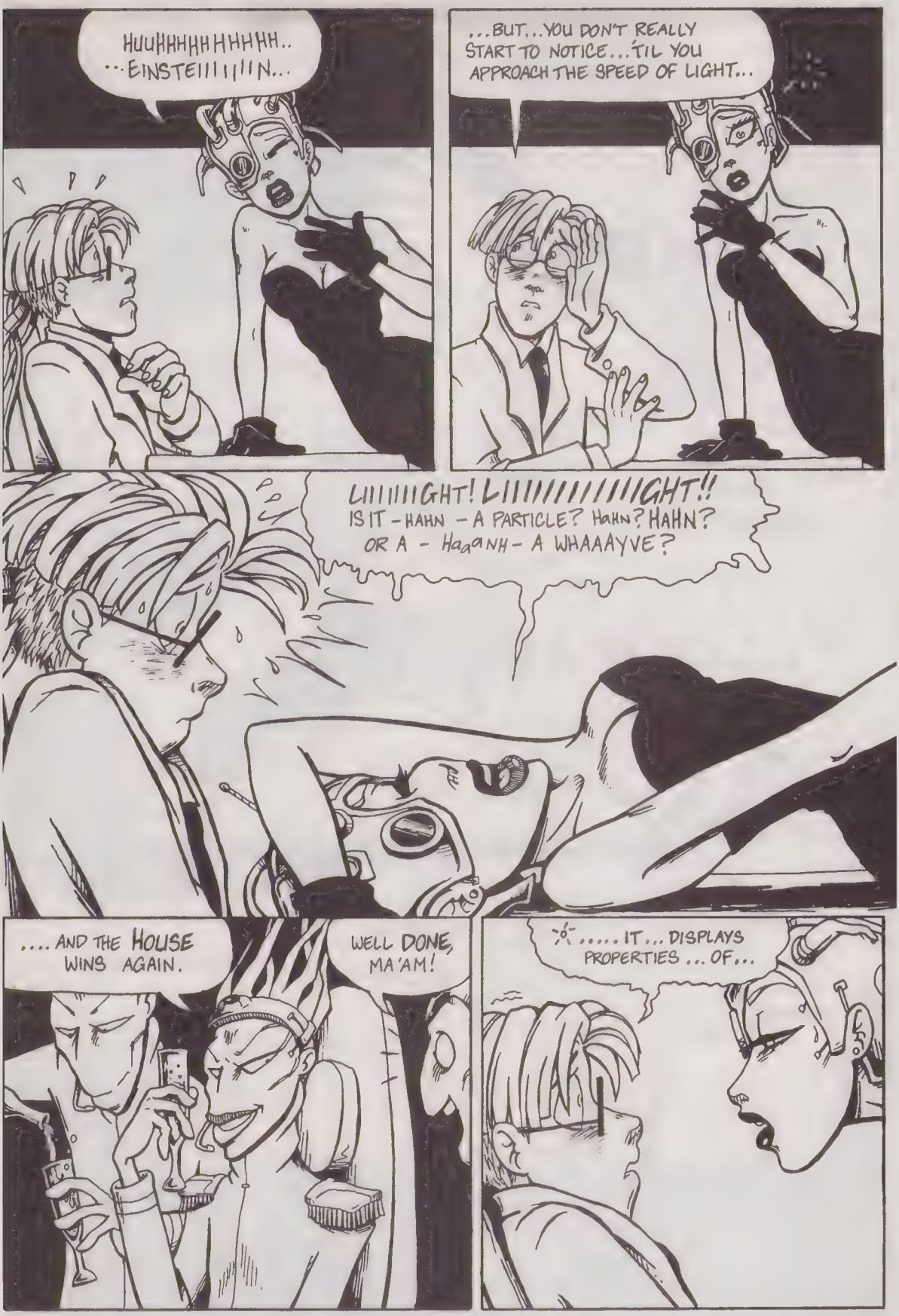

"YOU ARE SILENT. OVERWHELMED, PERHAPS – BUT HOW MUCH MORE THAN WHELMED WILL YOU BE WHEN I TELL YOU ...." NO!
"WHEN I TELL YOU THAT I..." NO!
"... LOVE...."
NOOOOOOOO!
HEY, JER. WELCOME BACK.
I-WAS-GOING-TO-SAY-ICE-CREAM.
I DIDN'T EVEN THINK IT WAS YOU.
TUMP


....EXTRAORDINARY.
NO, IT WASN'T.
THOUGHT NOT.
I MEAN, THIS IS WHAT HE WANTS, ISN'T IT?
WHAT HE WANTS?
I'VE BEEN ON THIS MISSION TOO DAMN LONG TO CARE ABOUT WHAT HE WANTS.
BUT...
FROM NOW ON — WE DO IT MY WAY.
IT WAS THE ALIEN. MAKING ME SAY ....STUFF.

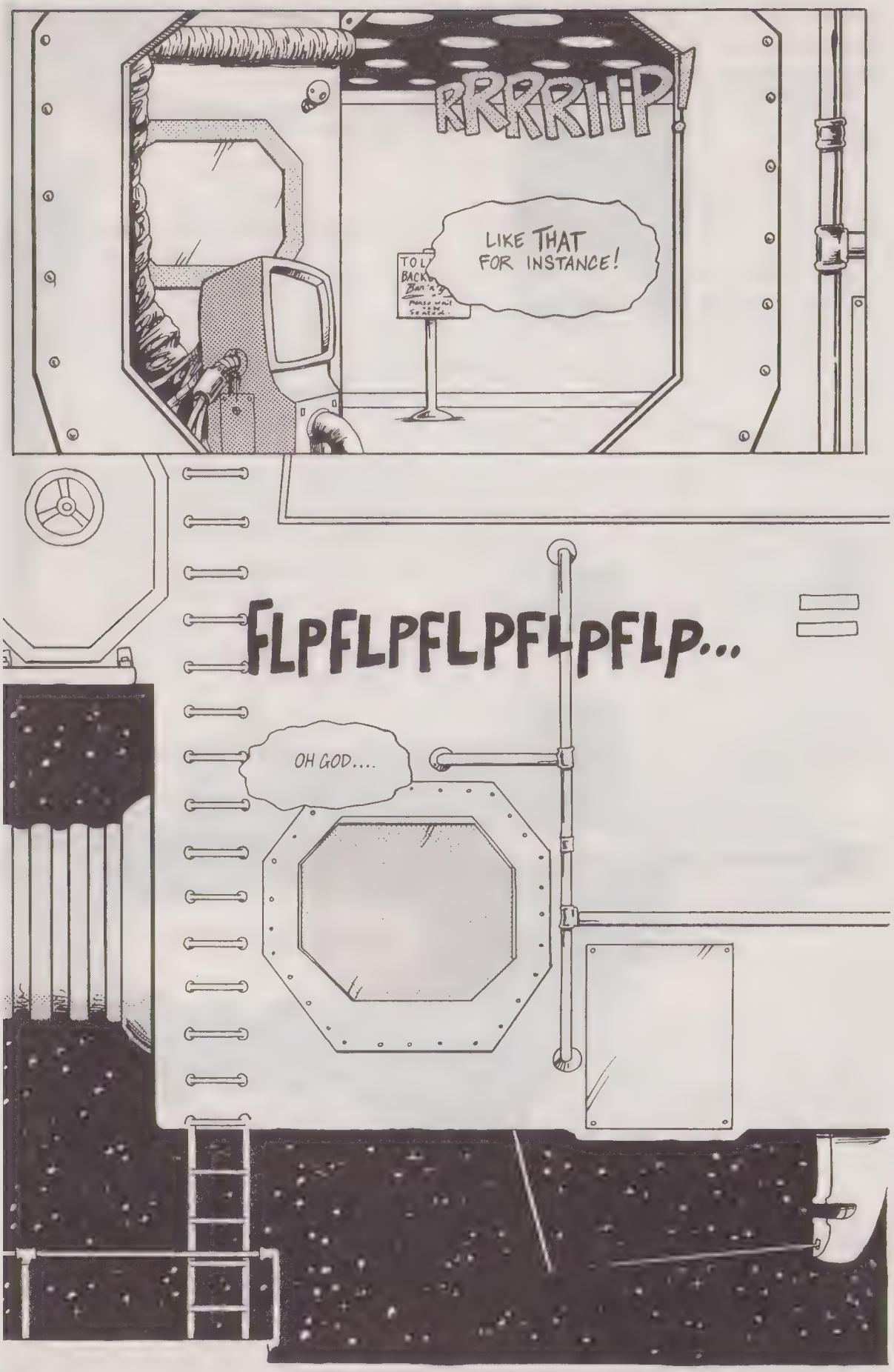
YUP.
WELL IT WAS.
MMM-HMM.
ANY PROGRESS?
WE THINK SO. HE'LL BE EASY ENOUGH, BUT WE MAY HAVE TO ....ADJUST HER BRAIN.
HMMM.
A LITTLE. INTERESTINGLY, IT'S ALMOST AS IF....
DO IT.
DO IT.
OH YES.

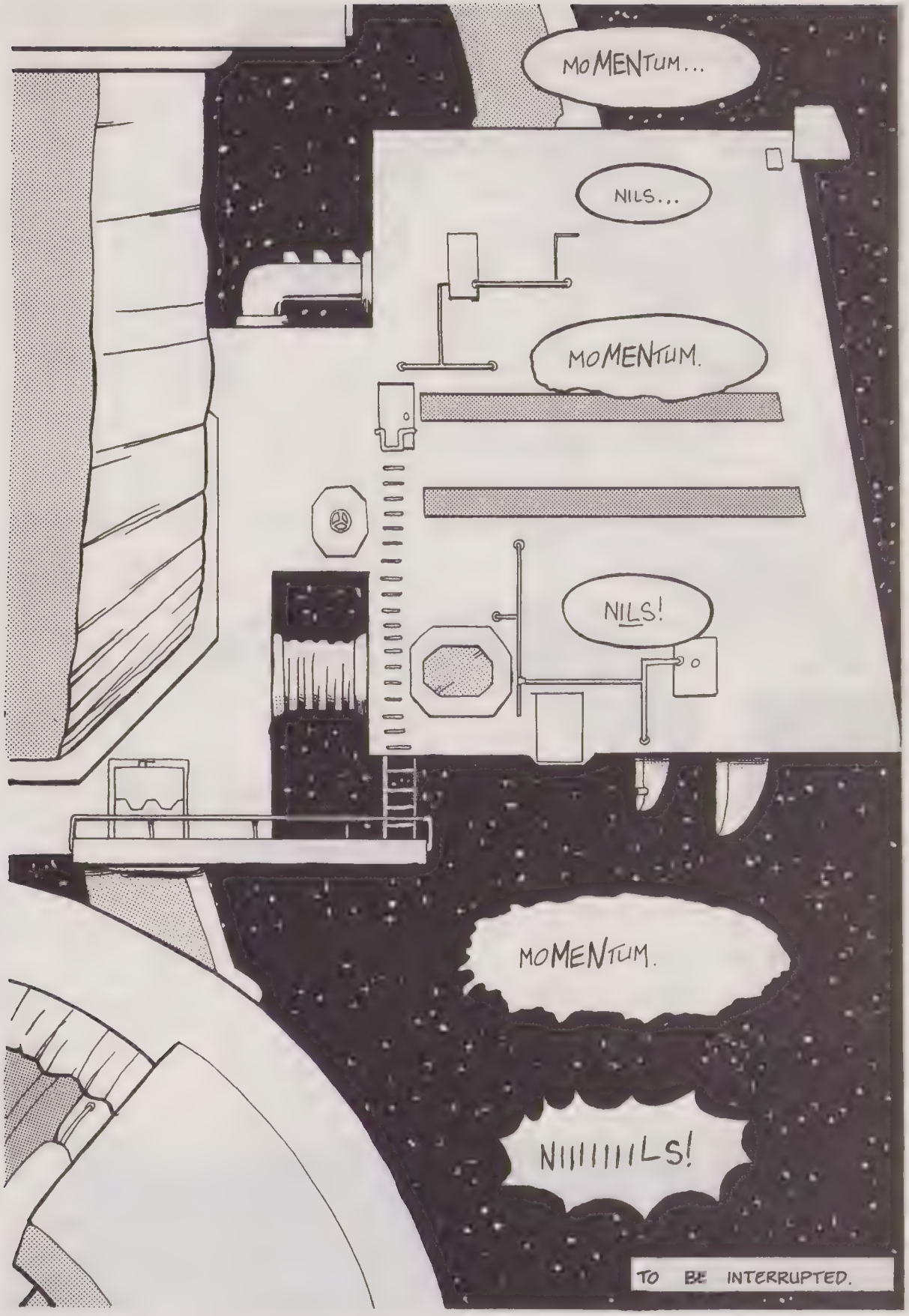

NILS? WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE.....
YOU-LOOK-LOVELY-TONIGHT -JEREMY.
NILS?
WHY-THANK-YOU-JEREMY.
HAVE YOU GOT A PLAN? I'VE GOT A PLAN. IT'S NOT A VERY GOOD PLAN...
UM...IF I DO THE MAKING A DIVERSION PART AND YOU DO THE HITTING, HOW DOES THAT SOUND?
HMMMMMMMM
NILS?
....TELL ME ABOUT NEWTONS LAWS OF MOTION.
UH.....
SNAP!

FAÎTES VOS JEUX....
WELL - OBJECTS IN MOTION TRAVEL IN A STRAIGHT LINE. UNTIL A FORCE ACTS ON THEM.
MMMMM....
...AND OBJECTS AT REST REMAIN AT REST. INERTIA IS CONSERVED.
OOOOOOHHH.
NILS?
WHAT ABOUT - HUH - MASS? IS MASS CONSERVED?
UH - NO....
REIN NE VAS PLUS....
EINSTEIN DISCOVERED THAT MASS INCREASES WITH VELOCITY..
20.


HUUHHHHHHHHHH..
...EINSTEIIIIIIIN...
...BUT...YOU DON'T REALLY START TO NOTICE...'TIL YOU APPROACH THE SPEED OF LIGHT...
LIIIIIIGHT! LIIIIIIIIIIIIGHT!!
IS IT - HAHN - A PARTICLE? HAHN? HAHN?
OR A - HAAANH - A WHAAAYVE?
.... AND THE HOUSE WINS AGAIN.
WELL DONE, MA'AM!
..... IT... DISPLAYS PROPERTIES ... OF...

...BOTH?
AAHH!
NILS! THINK ABOUT THIS!!
HUHHHHHHH!
PLEASE DON'T DO ANYTHING YOU MIGHT WANT TO KILL ME FOR LATER !!
TOLKEN BACKBURNER'S Bar n' Grill
Please Wait to be Seated.
STAFF ONLY
ROWRRR FFFT!


RRRRIIIP!
LIKE THAT FOR INSTANCE!
FLPFLPFLPFLPFLP...
OH GOD....


MOMENTUM...
NILS...
MOMENTUM.
NILS!
MOMENTUM.
NIIIIIIILS!
TO BE INTERRUPTED.

COMICS ETC

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ARTOPIA
HEY MACRODOT— WE'VE GOT A NEW VISITOR ON-LINE!
B. FIL BARLOW
©COPYRIGHT 1994 FIL BARLOW
WELCOME FRIEND TO ARTOPIA A PSEUDO WORLD WHERE ARTISTS MEET AND CREATE THEIR OWN ENVIRONMENTS. MY NAME'S MACRODOT...
AND I'M PIEBALD THE ART MUTANT.

DADDEE.
...AND THIS IS THE PROJECT I'M CURRENTLY WORKING ON— WOAHHH! SOMEONE'S INTERFERING!
I'LL JUST REFORM YOU--
I'VE FOUND THE INTRUDER.
SHE'S IN THE SUBTOON REGION.
WOW! LOOKIT ALL THOSE COOL MONSTERS SHE'S MAKIN' FOR HERSELF!
WELL NOW, THIS IS MOST INTRIGUING WHY DIDN'T THE ALARM GO OFF?
I'D BETTER SEND IN MAGICAT!
DADDEE?

HEAR ME YE ABOMINATIONS PETRIFY, CALCIFY BEFORE THE MIGHT OF MAGICAT!
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME?
NAY— THEY ART THINE OWN CREATIONS— THINE THOUGHTS AND EMOTIONS HATH GIVEN THEM FORMS.
YE HATH WITNESSED THINE HIDDEN SELF!
SO YOU'RE THE BASTARD RESPONSIBLE FOR THESE MONSTROSITIES!
LISTEN TO ME MACRODOT— I'M NOT TALKING TO NO DAMN CARTOON CAT— THIS SPACE IS ILLEGAL AND I'M HERE TO SHUT IT DOWN!
HMPH!
THE AMALGAM SENT ME— SO YOU'D BETTER SPEAK TO ME DIRECTLY; IF YOU'VE GOT THE BALLS!
HMM. THE AMALGAM - EH? I WANT TO FIND OUT HOW MUCH SHE KNOWS ABOUT ME WITHOUT HAVING TO SHOW MYSELF.
BRILLIANT IDEA PIEBALD! YES, A SUBTOON EFFIGY OF ME!
YOU COULD SEND HER A COPY OF YOURSELF!
I'LL LET HER CREATE IT— SO IT WILL BEHAVE EXACTLY THE WAY SHE EXPECTS ME TO. THIS'LL REVEAL SOME INSIGHTS!

YE MAY REGRET EVOKING THE MASTER.
I BID THEE FARE WELL—FOR NOW!
RRRUMMMMMMMMM
CAN'T GET FREE!
RUMMBBBLE
WAAHAHAHA
YOU'RE RIGHT—THE DIRECT APPROACH IS BETTER!!
AS FOR THE STATE of MY TESTICULAR ANATOMY—the ANSWer is...
√ YES, I GOTTEM—
WHAHA HA!

COOOOL!
HOW FLATTERING, SHE'S MISTAKEN ME FOR HER OWN MISANDRY.* I'D BETTER RESTRAIN HIM BEFORE - HE -
NO!! SHE GOT HERSELF INTO THIS!
HMM - YES IT IS HER OWN SUBCONSCIOUS - BUT HOW CAN SHE FACE THIS FEAR WITHOUT KNOWING ITS ANTITHESIS+ FIRST?
* HATRED OF MAN
+ OPPOSITE
I'VE GOT IT! SHE CAN SAVE HERSELF BY CREATING HER OWN RESCUER.
ALL HER STRENGTH AND POWER SYNTHESISED INTO ONE SUBTOON HERO!
So WHAT Did You WANT TO SAY TO MY FACE?
BACK OFF CREEP!

Gordon.
A Letters Page.

WRITE TO P.O. BOX 116
PADDINGTON 4064

Dear Trudy, Doug, Danny and Co.

Hi! I just had to write and tell you how great I think your work is. It is refreshing to see something of such originality and quality that is locally produced.

I have to admit it was the style of the illustration that first caught my eye. So it was with great joy and surprise I found the story and characters to be almost as appealing. So many times I have picked up a comic that looked good, to find that the stories are either predictable or just plain not funny.

Nils is such a cool, gorgeous wee lussie. We all have to sympathise with Jer, I have had days like that, but it seems he is destined to have a lot, and I do mean a lot, of them. Speaking of the future, the other great thing about your tale is that there really is no way (for me at least) to predict what will happen next.

What can I say about Trudy's artwork! Brilliant is one word that springs to mind. The characters have such great expressions and style. Not one frame of the layout is wasted or boring. The combined effect of the well-paced action and detailed emotions on the faces is amazing.

Enough of the lavish praise. I know you have heard it all before.

I have sent a small sample of work as a token of my respect. I think it is great that you have got such a quality product out there independently and would like the opportunity to talk to you as to how you did it. Maybe you know some frustrated writers to give my work a hand?

Leigh Brown

Proof that the saying 'If you want something done right, do it yourself' is WRONG! Thank you, Leigh, for writing the letter we would have written to ourselves (if we'd been paying attention).

Dougal, Nils, Jeremy and somebody with serious ears, by Leigh Brown.

Dear Bloody Funny Creative Types,

I write to you on the eve of a personal tragedy. My..*sniff*...my *sob* favourite mug.. *bawl* is dead. Fooling around at the edge of the shelf, it plummeted to its doom when the cupboard door was opened. Never again can I gaze apon the little cartoon picture of a little man in a boat at sea, with the moon above, as steam wafts from my lovely hot beverage contained therein. Oh the horror! Oh the injustice! Oh stupid me why didn't I put my brother's mug at the front of the shelf instead while I was drying the dishes?

You can probably guess where this is leading.. I'm enquiring as to the current mugs in stock (in particular, do you have a mug or 2?), to replace my poor mug (may it rest in peace). I've included a stamp, 'cause I know the Aussie comic industry is not very profitable at the 'mo, so if you could send a reply soonish, so I can send an order in, I'd be grateful.. after all, I'll be hot-beverage-less until the replacement mug arrives, as I will not sully my lips with anything less.

Incidentally, I love Platinum Grit, there's only one problem, where's number 3?? Oh the torment of not being able to gaze apon Nils' cleavage, or wince as Jeremy suffers a bit more....OK OK I'll admit identifying with Jeremy.. just don't tell anyone.... Anyway, quit your jobs, visit DSS, and start drawing/writing/creating full time... I'd be ever-so-grateful!

Yours in anticipation,

Matthew Bayliss

The black border around this letter is a mark of our sympathy and respect, at what must be a difficult time .

And Don't worry about identifying with Jer- we'll tell no-one.

Dear Platinum Grit,
Aussie comics are fully cool.
Your Aussie comic is the coolest, ay?
It has a fully intense story and it's like 'Oh my God!'
Where's the next issue.
Keep it up, ay?
Nigel Grier (Narrabeen)

P.S. I'm going off!

P.P.S. Could I say 'Yo' to my homies Dave and Dom?

Dear Danny,

Okay, just what the heck is going on? Here's me, checking every day in my local newsagent to see if #3 is out, and now the bloke tells me "I don't think there will be one". What it this supposed to mean? Are you guys giving up? Dropping out? Letting it all slide? Putting it on the back-burner?

In your previous letter, you said it would be out "soon"... that was November 10. Now It's Feb '95, and still no sign... *sigh*...

To think, you guys have it all... a groovy thing happening on the back cover, decent characters, a doody letterhead... imagination... (enough swelling of the heads I think, but you get the idea...)

I figured I'd buy the FIRST ISSUE and in 5 years time, It'd be worth a mint seeing as PG would be a hugely successful line, and there would be Nils dolls, clothes, hairdos and pencil-sharpeners everywhere.

I guess what I'm saying is, don't give up on what you've got.. it's a damn good thing, and it'd be criminal to let it disappear. I dunno how many other letters you have received along the same lines, but rest assured, you have at least one faithful fan out here...

For what it's worth, anything you need a hand with, let me know and I'll see what I can do....

"Don't stop now, 'cause I'm having a good time..."

Ben (again) McEvoy.

What did we tell you? NEVER listen to 'the bloke.' (But we forgive you for the gratuitous queen song.)

Dear Sir,

I am currently being eaten by an alligator.

However, as I would imagine I shall be completely devoured by the time you receive this, there seems little point in requesting your assistance.

Nonetheless, I do feel much better for having told someone at last.

Thankyou for your time,

Bernard Mitchell, OBE

Dear Platinum Groins-

My suggestions for a letters page are-

'Nils Naked'

'More about Nils unclothed'

'When does she get her gear off?'

Also, you didn't say what you win.

I think your Jack Kirby cover was cool, but it was a bit rough for a first draft.

Can Danny write a Swahili accent?

Are you all demi-gods?

What does Nils eat? Jeremy?

(I mean what does he eat?)

Do you mind if I sit outside your window at night, peering in, hopefully getting a glimpse of your majestic physiques gliding past the window in a sublime silhouette ... ahem... thankyou.

Rabbit.

Nils, Toots O'Toolworthy and a pedistool, by Hairbutt the Hippo's Bodine Amerikah

Dear Gordon,

Groo is so stupid,he broke his nose diving into a car pool.

You were foolish not to put your name on this, for now others may claim your valuable prizes. Ho Ho Ho.

Next: The Mystery Snail! The Mystery Snail!

YOU'D HAVE TO HAVE ROCKS IN YOUR HEAD *NOT* TO SHOP AT THE...

PHANTOM ZONE

PARRAMATTA
(02) 891 1848

WOLLONGONG
(042) 28 7393

CHATSWOOD
(02) 411 3709

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